The Call of Reason

Hold fast *en bloc* to the chord of God, and never stray from the fold. Thus goes forth the command of *Allah* through eternity for all who care to listen. That fold being universal brotherhood, otherwise called Islam in the language of the Quran, and that command having already been recorded in the Quran, Muslims, of all the people, cannot feign ignorance of that law of all laws. And ignorance of even man-made law is no excuse. That chord is intended to rope in humanity in a great loving brotherhood. Now that the fate of nations, peoples and civilisation itself is in the melting pot once again, it is in the interests of those who are yet out of it to rally round that chord—a source of unity in the world's diversity and a great steadying factor which promotes peace and prosperity of all those who not only believe in but live up to all the implications of the same. The Muslims of the world, particularly those of India, are in duty bound to hearken to that call of Reason—Reason, otherwise called *Allah*. And the call is in the air all the time for those who care to pick it up: *wa' tasemu behablillahe jamee'a, wala-tafarraqu.* It is in India, more than anywhere else, that they are desparately in need of a steadying factor in a sphere wider than politics—the Muslim League having already fulfilled that want in the latter sphere. They are heading for certain suicide in Bengal, if they have not already committed it. Will the Muslims of Bengal, therefore, pause to listen to that call of Reason, for considerations of self-preservation if not for anything else?

NOTES

Gesture Gone Wrong?

The release of political prisoners failed entirely to serve any useful purpose. It has been a thankless task for the expanded Executive Council as this gesture of the Government did not succeed in softening Mr. Gandhi's heart to suspend his anti-war activities. This decision of the Government, not amounting to a general amnesty, did not bring popularity to them or to the new members of the expanded Council. The Government, unimaginatively, as ever, decided to release only such political prisoners as were and are avowedly opposed to the war effort, while those who are interned for no apparent offence have been left to rot where they are—Allama Mashriqi being one of them.

The two subsequent statements of Mr. Gandhi are very suggestive. While declaring that the decision could not evoke a single responsive or appreciative chord in him, he has commanded the members of the Working Committee and of the All-India Congress Committee not to re-offer civil disobedience and to await the decision of the Congress which is shortly going to review its policy in this regard.

How the offences, which were formerly a source of embarrassment, suddenly ceased to be so, is a question which the Government alone can answer. But if there is going to be another "gentleman's agreement" behind the back of the Musalmans between the British Government and the Congress, with the non-entities of the expanded Council serving as instruments in that ungentlemanly and most ignoble trick, Muslim India, which is not pledged to non-violence, will avenge that betrayal with all the resources at its command.

New Adjustment.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has made a strong outburst of vilification against the Pakistan scheme in his presidential address to the Akhand Bharat Conference at Lahore. He has characterised the partition of India on the lines of Pakistan scheme as an attempt to disturb the territorial integrity of India. This shows his utter ignorance of history. The India of to-day is not the India of the Muslim Period, and the India of the Muslim Period was not the India of the Hindu Period, when it was divided into small but independent Kingdoms. Great Britain have treated for their administrative convenience the whole continent of India as one country. While, as a matter of fact, almost every Province is a country by itself. Therefore, a new adjustment in accordance with the Pakistan scheme is quite in consonance with the natural condition of India. Mr. Jinnah has repeatedly declared that the Muslims want only one third of India, leaving the rest to the Hindus. After this clean statement of policy any opposition to the Pakistan scheme lends support to Muslim apprehensions that the Hindus want to dominate the Muslim and other nationalities in the whole of the continent. Unlike the Congress and other Hindu organisations, the League and its Pakistan scheme stand for justice and fairplay to all. While the scheme insists on a proper share for the Muslims in the continent, it also concedes the same rights to other nationalities, whether big or small, in their own spheres. The Pakistan scheme is the natural answer to the desire of the Hindus to usurp all power in the Government, reducing Muslims to a state of helplessness, as has been evident during the short-lived Congress regime in the Hindu majority provinces. It is the solution of all the outstanding questions of India—political, social, economic, etc., etc. It obviates the chances of friction between Hindus, Muslims and other nationalities. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta must rest assured that the Muslims are undaunted by threats of opposition, and the scheme is bound to come to fruition.

Air Raid Precautions

As a result of the war developing in the Far East Air Raid Precautions are being taken in the eastern and southern provinces of India, particularly in the cities of Calcutta, Shillong, Dacca, Bombay and Madras and black-out tests are being carried out.

A *Gazette Extraordinary* issued at Calcutta on Tuesday announced that no hooter or siren shall be sounded except for purpose of giving an "air-raid warning" and a "raiders passed" signal. The order will not, however, apply to a hooter required to be sounded for *bona fide* purposes of navigation.

The same *Gazette Extraordinary* also published orders bringing into force certain provisions empowering the police authorities in Calcutta and the District authorities to requisition any place or premises in their respective areas for use during the period of a state of emergency for A. R. P. services. The orders also provide for restriction of lights in public places, private dwellings, roads, streets and vessels on inland waters.